

Message Text

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PAGE 01 GENEVA 09047 211725Z

ACTION ACDA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 ERDA-05 AF-10 ARA-10

CIAE-00 DODE-00 EA-10 PM-05 H-01 INR-07 L-03

NASA-01 NEA-10 NSAE-00 NSC-05 OIC-02 SP-02 PA-01

PRS-01 OES-07 SS-15 USIA-06 ACDE-00 /139 W

-----065856 211733Z /70

P R 211646Z OCT 77

FM USMISSION GENEVA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2202

INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

C O N F I D E N T I A L GENEVA 9047

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PARM, US, UR

SUBJECT: US-USSR CHEMICAL WEAPONS NEGOTIATIONS, SIXTH
ROUND, NINTH PLENARY MEETING, OCTOBER 19, 1977. CW
MESSAGE NO. 20

1. US-USSR ARMS CONTROL WORKING GROUP ON CHEMICAL WEAPONS
HELD A BRIEF PLENARY MEETING AT THE US MISSION ON THE
AFTERNOON OF OCTOBER 19. AMBASSADOR FISHER (HEAD OF US
DEL) REVIEWED THE US POSITION ON ON-SITE VERIFICATION OF
DESTRUCTION OF DECLARED STOCKS AND ELIMINATION OF DECLARED
FACILITIES. WITH RESPECT TO INSPECTIONS OT INVESTIGATE
SITUATIONS CREATING DOUBTS ABOUT COMPLIANCE HE SAID THAT
THE TWO SIDES MAY BE CLOSE TO AGREEMENT IN PRINCIPLE,
BUT CONSIDERABLE WORK REMAINS TO BE DONE. FISHER STATED
THAT THERE ARE TWO WAYS TO APPROACH NEGOTIATIONS, EITHER
DEAL WITH THE EASY POINTS FIRST OR DEAL WITH THE HARD
POINTS FIRST. HE SAID THAT REQUIRED, THAT IS, AGREED,
ON-SITE VERIFICATION OF DESTRUCTION OF DECLARED STOCKS
AND ON-SITE VERIFICATION OF THE ELIMINATION OF DECLARED
FACILITIES ARE PERHAPS THE TWO MOST IMPORTANT VERIFICATION
ISSUES TO BE RESOLVED. HE STRESSED THAT THESE MEASURES
WERE PARTICULARLY IMPORTANT.

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PAGE 02 GENEVA 09047 211725Z

2. AMBASSADOR LIKHATCHEV (HEAD OF SOVIET DEL) REITERATED
PREVIOUS SOVIET POSITION ON VERIFICATION ISSUES. ASSERT-
ING THE SOVIET SIDE ATTACHES GREAT IMPORTANCE TO
VERIFICATION, HE SAID THAT THE NUMBER OF POINTS ON WHICH
THE TWO SIDES ALREADY AGREE PROVIDE A SUBSTANTIAL, SOLID
SYSTEM OF VERIFICATION. IN THE SOVIET VIEW THE ENTIRE

SYSTEM OF CONTROL SHOULD BE CONSIDERED RATHER THAN EXAGGERATING SOME PARTICULAR ELEMENT. HE EMPHASIZED THAT THE SOVIET SIDE CONSIDERS THE MOST IMPORTANT CHARACTERISTIC OF CHALLENGE OR INVITATIONAL INSPECTIONS IS THAT THEY BE VOLUNTARY. HE ASSERTED THAT THE SOVIETS SIDE WAS NOT CONCERNED ABOUT INSPECTORS HAVING A "HUNTING LICENSE" TO LOOK ANYWHERE THEY WANTED. SINCE IT WAS CLEAR THAT THIS WAS PRECLUDED. RATHER, THE SOVIET SIDE IS AGAINST SOME KIND OF INTERNATIONAL ORGAN ABOVE GOVERNMENTS TAKING A DECISION TO SEND INSPECTORS TO STATES. HE SAID THAT SUCH DECISIONS INFRINGE ON THE SOVERIEGNTY OF STATES.

3. FISHER SUGGESTED THAT THE DRAFTING GROUP REPORT ON ITS WORK AT THE NEXT PLENARY MEETING ON THE AFTERNOON OF OCTOBER 21. LIKHATCHEV AGREED. VANDEN HEUVEL

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Message Attributes

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